

## BIOECONOMY PASTORAL TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS IN SIBIU BORDERS

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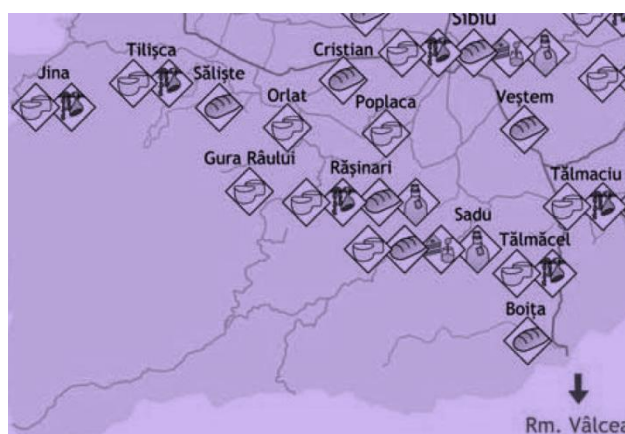
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### ABSTRACT

*Sibiu Surroundings include settlements in the vicinity of the mountain, such as Săliște, Sibiul, Vale, Tilișca, Fântânele, Rod, Orlat, River Mouth, Poplaca, Rășinari, Poiana Sibiu, Miercurea Sibiului and Jina. Grazing was the main occupation of the inhabitants of Mărginime; occupation that practice Dacians and Romans (evidenced by the existence of a sheep-shearing scissors, found on castle Cisnădioara hill, dating from those times). The first form is the sedentary shepherding that those who had a few sheep pastures were using the center of the village, a second form was shepherding pendulotoriu grazing in that those who had a greater number of sheep shepherds entrusted to them for the move and thus appears that transhumance was driven by harsh winter conditions on Transylvania land. Shepherding their flocks occurs over the centuries as a regular seasonal migration astronomical. Leaving the sheep from the mountains to the plains of Transylvania and Moldova Romanian State was made by customs and celebrations in early March. Road sheep was, went through Sibiu, stopped the mouth where it was custom to Căineni stopped overnight, grab for Sălătruc and from there to the Arges Court and Pitesti, then "the big road" to Bucharest or villages over Vlașca, go take 10-12 days. Cheese produced mainly from sheep milk was produced for the first time in Mărginime of a shepherd " Ioan Popescu, Salistean walked in sheep, in the land but also in America."*

### INTRODUCTION

Sibiu Surroundings include settlements in the vicinity of the mountain, such as: Săliște, Sibiul, Vale, Tilișca, Fântânele, Rod, Orlat, River Mouth, Poplaca, Rășinari, Poiana Sibiu, Miercurea Sibiu and Jina (7).



**Figure 1 Map with locations of Sibiu Surroundings**

Sheep breeding is an economic activity, traditional one with special social implications. This activity has always been a source of food for farmers and feedstock for family needs, but also for trade.

Regarding the number of sheep, Romania is considered as the country with the great potential in Central and Eastern Europe, but also with the biggest problems to solve. Grazing was the main occupation of the inhabitants of Mărginime; occupation that practice Dacians and Romans (as attested by the existence of a sheep-shearing scissors, Cislădioara found on castle hill, dating from those times). The first form is the sedentary shepherding that those who had a few sheep pastures were using the center of the village, a second form was shepherding oscillating that those who had a greater number of sheep shepherds entrusted to them for the move thus appears that transhumance was determined by the harsh conditions of the land Transylvanian winter (1).



Figure 2 Sheep Turcana breeds

Activity pastoral is an ancient occupation as agriculture. Mountain provides an intense pastoral life, he gives shelter and food sheep in the summer months (about six months). The beginnings were mountain sheep breeding, 90% of farms in Poiana Sibiu existed due to occupation of shepherding, this percentage decreased with time.

A related issue concerns sheep welfare of Mărginimea Sibiului alpine grazing benefits offering organic hay, fruits, underbrush leaf, good quality and not least offering air and water quality. Forest encompasses all primary backgrounds water, soil air, for which is a mechanism for organizing and improving the ecosphere (3, 6).



Figure 3 Sheep pastures

Shepherding their flocks today is how to increase the Mărginime sheep that allowed and allows the development of economic activities such as food industry (by making cheese and meat), textiles (by making wool, currently less accomplished) and increased tourism potential of the area, so a **viable pastoral bioeconomy** (2, 4, 8).

Cheese produced mainly from sheep milk was produced for the first time in Mărginime of a shepherd "Ioan Popescu, Salistean walked in sheep, in the land but also in America." The merchandise conducted on pastorals with cheese, meat, wool, etc.

"Mărgineni" brought in today and make a significant contribution to the economy of Sibiu and in the intra-and extra-up to the Danube and Black Sea (2, 5).

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Romanian mountain area totals 35% of our country is divided into 28 counties with a population of about 3.6 million and 1036 subsistence households scattered in 84 small towns and 730 villages in common with 3900 , there are 4.461 million hectares of natural grassland in the mountain area has 1.3 million hectares that 25.5 % of the total and provide about 55 % of the equivalent mass of green fodder , leading mountainous and hilly areas this proportion exceed 65-70 % of the consumption , which covers over 30 % of the feed fiber .

Out of ruminant livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) in the mountainous area , the largest share with 93 % sheep hold. So Turcana has the largest share in this area is a rustic breed well adapted to harsh environmental and weather-resistant diseases that exploit food resources better on mountain meadows .

Sheep breeds reared in Sibiu Borders Turcana or ancestral Barsana were present case, the most common reason that having a thick skin and a long wool Easier climate is demanding to maintenance over time Turcana sheep were replaced with sheep pan and the Stogoșă sheep resulting from crossing two breeds.

Turcana sheep owns almost half of the total herd of sheep at the national level (44.5%). The sheep evaluated good pasture and hay in the mountains. With the new sheep can graze in the mountains with altitudes between 700 - 1300 m, between 90 and 120 days; grazing usually ends between August 31 to September 10, depending on weather developments. The sheep contribute to raising soil fertility and increase the production of green mass.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Sheep in Sibiu County, is a traditional activity, many centuries, the basic activity on Marginimea Sibiu area where farming is practiced alongside traditional activities on the processing and products (wool, milk, meat) with a strong local cuisine (cheese , clothing, crafts, instruments for the processing, inventory items of tin, skinner workshops, traditional hat, fabric shops, etc.). Households are specialized in this area for sheep, or households with mixed activity. Number of households who do not own animals are approximately 27%.

Sibiu County ranks second in the country in terms of number of sheep are said Sibiu are among the most passionate breeders of sheep. The Sibiu Borders, currently there is actually about 60000 sheep grazing on an area of 50 000 ha of grazing mountain, meadow and forest, and a number of 150 Stan.

Of all households owning animals in the area, with only 56 % sheep, 43% cattle grow. In general, the system of farming in the mountain is the short jig with wintering based natural using summer mountain pastures higher floors, the sheepfold or mixed farms, the sheep pastures can graze 2-3 months. This farming system results in a very good quality of meat, milk and cheese, although the yields obtained are low.

Agricultural households hold most of the herd of sheep. The largest share is the households that raise sheep less than 10 heads (64 %). Households owning more than 500 sheep representing only 0.4% of total households, 15% of them are concentrated total number of sheep in the area.

In private households, in winter the sheep generally grow near the house furnished housing. There are areas where transhumance is still practiced as a tradition very old. In the summer sheep are taken to the sheepfold.



Sheepfold is the core component used in grazing animals; this is carried out most of its activities related to thrust mountain sheep. It has multiple uses, from sheltered shepherds, cooking them until milk processing.



**Figure 4 The sheepfold in the mountains**

Currently (2012-2013), in Sibiu County in over 1,700 sheep breeders, only 5 still practiced transhumance. The sheepfold was modernized and Turcana breed was improved.



**Figure 5 The sheepfold modernized**

Not all Mărginime people have large herds of sheep, but those with a smaller number of sheep they lead to late autumn in the mountains and down the hilly areas of continuous grazing on the mountain.

Pastors of Sibiu Borders complain that they cannot comply with the millenary tradition where they do not have to remain sheep transhumance risking only reason to stay ballad. Sibiu shepherds, although more sheep than in other European countries are reluctant to become legal, which prevent them from export famous sheep cheese. Milk is obtained for processing in particular cheese and bellows, for family consumption and sale on the open market.

In Romania mutton consumption is very low and therefore the growth of sheep for meat appears to be an action unprofitable. In Sibiu there are more Sheep Breeders Associations and all facing the same problems: market outlets, grants and productive breeds, etc. If you want to stay on the European market in this sector, they will have to find quick fixes; some of them have already found solutions to some of them. With all the issues raised, there are farmers in the county who have achieved performance, both by increasing herd of pure -bred race Țurcană breed or pan, but also cross -bred sheep and pans from Țurcană and Țigaie with Schwarzkopf breed rams to improve the quality of housing.

## CONCLUSIONS

The pastoral activity is an ancient occupation as agriculture Mount provides an intense pastoral life, he gives shelter and food sheep during the 6 months of summer.

Shepherding their flocks today is how to increase the Mărginime sheep that allowed and allows the development of economic activities such as food industry (by making cheese and meat), textiles (by making wool, currently less accomplished) and increased tourism potential of the area, so a viable pastoral bioeconomy.

Currently, mountains Sibiu Borders sheep breeders have built sheepfold that fulfills the requirements and conditions veterinary European standards.

In the Sibiu Borders together with animal husbandry practices and traditional activities on the processing products (wool, milk, meat) with a strong local cuisine: cheese, clothing, crafts, instruments for the processing, inventory items of tin, workshops the skinner, traditional hat, fabric shops, etc.

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